



Dane County

Minutes - Final Unless Amended by Committee

Youth Commission

Consider:

Who benefits? Who is burdened?

Who does not have a voice at the table?

How can policymakers mitigate unintended consequences?

Wednesday, January 20, 2021

5:00 PM

Remote via Zoom

A. Call To Order and Introduction of New DCDHS Staff

Staff and guests present; Connie Bettin, Joe Maldonado, Megan Meinen, and Howard Thomas

Chair Benson called the meeting to order at 5 p.m.

Present 8 - ADAM FEARING, SHRIYA KATA, KARI STAMPFLI, KEMA WILLIAMS, Chair
MEGHAN BENSON, ANDREW MCKINNEY, Supervisor ELENA HAASL, and
Supervisor ALEX JOERS

Absent 2 - KHADDY JARJOU, and MARCIA MORALES

Megan Meinen, the new Prevention Services Manager for the PEI Division at Dane County Human Services, was introduced to the Commission. She will be taking over the staffing of the Commission for Dane County Human Services. Chair Benson welcomed Megan and thanked PEI Division Administrator Connie Bettin for her longstanding support to the Youth Commission.

B. Consideration of Minutes

[2020](#)
[MIN-373](#)

MINUTES FROM NOVEMBER 18, 2020

Attachments: [2020 1118 Youth Commission Minutes](#)

**A motion was made by MCKINNEY, seconded by KATA, to approve the minutes.
The motion carried by the following vote:**

Ayes: 8 - FEARING, KATA, STAMPFLI, WILLIAMS, BENSON, MCKINNEY, HAASL and
JOERS

Absent: 2 - JARJOU and MORALES

C. Action Items

1. Election of Vice Chair

Benson called for nominations for Vice Chair.

A motion was made by MCKINNEY, seconded by FEARING, to elect Kata to serve as Vice Chair. Benson called for nominations for Vice Chair three times. No additional nominations came forth. The motion to elect Kata as Vice Chair carried by the following vote:

Ayes: 8 - FEARING, KATA, STAMPFLI, WILLIAMS, BENSON, MCKINNEY, HAASL and JOERS

Absent: 2 - JARJOU and MORALES

2. Election of Chair

Kata called for nominations for Chair.

A motion was made by MCKINNEY, seconded by STAMPFLI, to elect Benson as Chair. Kata called for nominations for Chair three times. No additional nominations came forth. The motion to elect Benson as Chair carried by the following vote:

Ayes: 8 - FEARING, KATA, STAMPFLI, WILLIAMS, BENSON, MCKINNEY, HAASL and JOERS

Absent: 2 - JARJOU and MORALES

D. Presentations

1. Joe Maldonado, Fitchburg Alder, District 1, Seat 2 on Youth Program Plans

Joe Maldonado, Fitchburg Alder, District 1, Seat 2 presented his plans for a youth program in his district. District 1 is the northwest side of Fitchburg, including the Allied and Jamestown/King James neighborhoods. This district is majority people of color and students attend the Verona Area School District. Alderman Maldonado considers there to be a large number of youth in the district, but a lack of dedicated youth programming, especially for older youth/teenagers ages 13-20. Initial consultations have borne out that the community considers there to be a dearth of safe spaces for youth in area.

Alderman Maldonado is working to establish a teen center in the King James neighborhood. Plans for this center are in a recently passed 10 Year Capital Improvement Plan in Fitchburg. Funds were allocated this year for a community engagement study, to start to map out what this eventual center could look like and what services it will offer.

He uses data from the Dane County Youth Assessment (DCYA) and values it as a tool to understand risk and protective factors for older youth. Fitchburg will be collecting additional information on youth via the planned assessment. Alderman Maldonado came to the meeting to inform the Commission of this assessment and longer term plans for a youth center. He wanted to open lines of communication and make space for collaboration. He expressed a specific desire for information on Fitchburg and the Verona school district from this year's DCYA.

Benson expressed the Commission's support of creating safe spaces for youth, asked Alderman Maldonado to keep the Commission informed, and to reach out with any questions. She also told Alderman Maldonado that District-level data from the DCYA must be requested from the school itself, but that the Commission is happy to support however it can. Alderman Maldonado will keep the Commission apprised of the results of the assessment.

E. Reports to Committee

1. Set YC Meeting Calendar for 2021 (Chair)

Benson asked for directives from the County on virtual versus in-person meetings. Bettin explained that the county does not plan to return to regularly scheduled in person meetings for now. However, no limit had been set on virtual meetings.

The Commission will continue to meet virtually for the foreseeable future. Benson suggested the Commission return to a monthly meeting schedule, and confirmed that the third Wednesday of the month from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. will be the 2021 meeting schedule.

Attendance Update

McKinney left the meeting.

Present 7 - ADAM FEARING, SHRIYA KATA, KARI STAMPFLI, KEMA WILLIAMS, Chair
MEGHAN BENSON, Supervisor ELENA HAASL, and Supervisor ALEX JOERS
Absent 3 - KHADDY JARJOU, MARCIA MORALES, and ANDREW MCKINNEY

2. Youth Assessment Update

Benson provided a short update on the DCYA. Schools are receiving more inquiries from parents than in past years. We have assured parents that this is a community and school driven process, and that schools want to move forward with the assessment this year. Bettin clarified that even though there has been an uptick in parental questions, the number of questions is still very small compared to the overall number of respondents. A couple early technical glitches have been attributable to website blockers and have been easily addressed. The assessment overall is moving ahead smoothly, schools have been happy to participate, and we expect a full data set.

It was raised that Stampfli will no longer chair the DCYA steering committee. Further updates on the DCYA will be provided in February, when data collection is hopefully coming to a close. The steering committee will meet in March.

3. Exploratory Committee for Voice of Our Youth 2021

Recognizing that it probably isn't possible to hold a Voice of Our Youth Summit in person in 2021, the Commission will explore alternative options. These options could include a virtual activity in 2021, an in person conference in 2022, and/or hybrid options. Benson suggested perhaps planning a larger summit every three years with new data and then smaller events in off years. An exploratory group will discuss different options and present back to the Commission.

Kata, Haasl, Benson, and Williams expressed interest. Morales will also be invited to join.

F. Future Meeting Items and Dates

Future Item: Revisit Youth Commission Vision Statement

a. Future item to revisit Youth Commission vision statement

The commission has not revisited its vision statement in several years. This will be discussed at February's meeting.

b. Filling the vacant youth seat on the commission

The Commission currently has one vacant youth seat. Another youth member, Kata, will be departing in September 2021. Bettin will re-send application info so Commissioners can share with their networks. The youth representative should be at least high school age, so no younger than 14. Williams suggested it would be good to have two high school members, and an older, college-age youth, if possible. Benson reminded the Commission that if people are willing to serve as mentors, that can be very helpful for new Commissioners, especially youth Commissioners.

c. Youth Presentation to Commission

Stampfli shared that she recently attended a presentation done by a local group of teens, primarily of Asian descent, who spoke to school nursing staff about racism they experience as a result of COVID. She said it was a very powerful presentation and had very clear asks of adults in the committee. She offered to reach out to them to see if they can present to the Youth Commission. There was widespread interest in hearing the presentation. Stampfli will reach out and try to schedule it.

G. Public Comment on Items not on the Agenda

None.

H. Such Other Business as Allowed by Law

None.

I. Adjournment

Benson adjourned the meeting at 6:07 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Megan Meinen